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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Secretary Gassman Announces Additional Assistance for Dislocated Workers at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Fond Du Lac

Employment, training services for workers displaced due to production shift abroad

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that workers displaced from the Claims Representative Unit in the Senior Medicare Advantage Department of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, a subsidiary of WellPoint, Inc., Fond Du Lac, including on-site leased workers from Kelly Services, are eligible to apply for additional re-employment and training services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program.

“This additional assistance available through the TAA program will help these workers increase their job skills, re-enter the workforce and support themselves and their families,” Secretary Gassman said.

The workers were health insurance claims representatives within the Senior Medicare Advantage Department of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, a subsidiary of WellPoint, Inc. They were displaced when Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield acquired services like or directly competitive with those supplied by the Claims Representative Unit from foreign countries, according to findings of the U.S. Department of Labor. They were previously TAA certified, but their period of eligibility expired November 24, 2010.

The new TAA certification applies to workers displaced as of November 24, 2010, through December 17, 2012. Affected workers will be notified of meetings to discuss program benefits.

DWD administers the federally funded services, which are available through local Job Centers. They include retraining and re-employment services tailored to meet the needs of individual workers. These workers can now apply for the following TAA services:

- **Training** for employment in another job or career,
- **Income support**, known as trade readjustment allowances,
- **Job search allowance** to cover expenses seeking employment outside normal commuting areas, and
- **Relocation allowances** for approved relocation expenses in moving to a new area of employment.

“Working with our partners, we provide these services to help displaced workers get the training they need and connect with employers in search of workers with the right skills,” Secretary Gassman said.

Last year, Wisconsin received additional funding when the U.S. Department of Labor expanded the amount of TAA funds available nationwide to \$575 million from \$220 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The additional funding will help states serve an increasing number of trade-affected workers. More information on the TAA program is available at <http://www.doleta.gov>.

Individuals interested in receiving re-employment assistance should contact a local Job Center or visit <http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/> to find a Job Center nearby. The nearest Job Center location also can be found by calling toll free (888) 258-9966.